

# SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**September 30, 2015** 

### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Gabe Margasak

South Florida Water Management District Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 682-2292

www.sfwmd.gov/news

# Water Resource Education Program Hits 10-Year Mark The Great Water Odyssey has reached tens of thousands of students

**West Palm Beach, FL** — "Hydro" and "Agua" have traveled a long way.

The two animated water drop characters have led more than 60,500 elementary school students on *The Great Water Odyssey* through Florida's wetlands, rivers and aquifers. They have even helped plan a sustainable future through water conservation and waterwise landscaping.

This year, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is celebrating its 10th year of offering *The Great Water Odyssey* training program at no cost to more than 2,700 elementary teachers in the District's 16 counties.

In the classroom, the educational program becomes a creative, hands-on way to teach students about reading, science, language arts, geography, history and math by learning about water conservation.

Each animated learning module is followed by an interactive exploration screen, where students earn points by exploring a scene that reinforces the lesson.

From Orlando to the Florida Keys, the SFWMD has sponsored this animated computer program through Florida Atlantic University's Center for Environmental Studies. Originally offered as an in-school teacher training, the program is now presented as an online training tool, broadening access and availability to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade teachers throughout the region.

#### For More Information:

• The Great Water Odyssey

## About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving flood control, water quality, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.